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Had Mr. Garner begun with a survey of ante-bellum political methods, and had he carried on his work through the adoption of the constitution of 1890, thus completing the "undoing of reconstruction," the volume would perhaps have had a still higher value. Yet as it stands, it constitutes a work which no student of recent United States history can afford to overlook.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

THEODORE CLARKE SMITH.

The Old New York Frontier. BY FRANCIS WHITING HALSEY.
New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901. — xiii, 432 pp.

To those to whom the title promises a study of "the frontier" as Professor Turner conceives it, this book will be a disappointment. It is rather the story of a region, told by one whose pious interest in the home of his fathers renders everything connected with the past of that locality precious. It is perhaps an inevitable result of the comparative antiquity of the East that studies of Eastern regions in their frontier period should be written from the standpoint of filial piety and with somewhat limited perspective. It seems not too much to hope, however, that at some time we may have the story of the winning of regions which have once been "West" told from the point of view of one interested in a process, rather than in a locality; for this process is one of the most characteristic of all the developments of our national life. The present work does, indeed, relate the story of the winning of the valleys of the Upper Susquehanna and its tributaries from the Indians and Tories, but towards the adequate treatment of the economic and social redemption of the locality from its undeveloped condition it makes only a beginning.

But this is only to say that the book has the defects of its qualities. As a piece of "local history," done on good traditional lines and with much more than usual diligence and care, it is a success. Much material has been used which, while not exactly new, has at any rate so far been almost entirely neglected and, by reason of its scattered condition, practically inaccessible; and it is distinctly worth while to have this material brought together and put into orderly shape. The author has done a service not only to the dwellers in the region described but to the general reader. The style is good, though occasionally a bit scrappy, the matter is interesting throughout and the book deserves to be widely read.

One might carp a little at the title. The region of the Upper Susquehanna, whose story the author tells, is *one* of the old New

York frontiers, and possibly its strategic importance during the War for Independence was sufficient to justify its claim to be a large part of *the* New York frontier. But, taking New York history as a whole, the old New York frontier included the Champlain-Hudson territory quite as much as the Mohawk-Susquehanna. This criticism might be regarded as captious, were it not that the emphasis revealed by the title is characteristic of the attitude of the author towards his subject. It is preëminently the story of the Unadilla Valley during the War for Independence and the rest of the eighteenth century in which the author is interested.

The period of the Indians and fur traders is rather lightly handled, the view taken of the Iroquois and the Indian situation in general being highly rose-colored, while but slight attention is given to the dealings of the Dutch traders during either Dutch or English periods. For the period of the missionaries a good service is performed by working out more fully than ever before the connection of New England missionary activity with this region. It may be pointed out here that long before the labors of Sergeant and the Stockbridge Mission, in 1736, there had been coöperation between the New York provincial government and the "Society of Boston for the propagation of the Christian faith—" indeed, as early as the time of Dellius in the last decade of the seventeenth century. So far as influence upon the particular territory of the Upper Susquehanna is concerned, however, the work of Sergeant was probably first. It is this exposition of missionary connection with New England and its resulting domination of the locality after the Revolution by New England and particularly Connecticut immigration, that constitutes one of the chief values of the book.

Another direction in which a distinct contribution is made, is in rationalizing the history of the Indian raids during the War for Independence. The Indians were puzzled by the quarrel between the Americans and the home government, were inclined in the early part of the war to treat with both sides, and only after Oriskany had supplied a motive most easily intelligible to them, *viz.*, revenge, sided unreservedly with the Tories. Brant's leadership and the use of the raid as a part of the general British campaign are well described, as well as the general vacillation of the continental leaders in their policy towards this frontier until the Sullivan expedition.

A beginning is made towards the history of the development of the region after the Revolution by a chapter on the highways

running westward through the locality and a short chapter giving a few facts of economic interest, extracts from contemporary account-books and the like. As a collection of history material, this chapter is not extensive enough; and it is hardly sufficiently organized to call it more than history material. But it is in the right direction, as are the chapters on land-titles. It is to be hoped that we may some time have this later aspect of this later period fully told.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY.

CHARLES WORTHEN SPENCER.

German and Swiss Settlements of Pennsylvania. By OSCAR KUHN. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1901. — 257 pp.

In nearly all that has been written heretofore about the Pennsylvania-German either he has been treated as a part, and almost invariably as a very unimportant part, of a larger field of inquiry or, as has been the case more frequently in recent years, particular phases of his history and character have been brought under the lens and subjected to a microscopic study. The first sort of treatment may be found in a large class of historical works, national, state and local; generally he is dismissed with scant consideration, often the pen is unsympathetic, while not infrequently the tone is one of ill-disguised contempt. The second mode of treatment is illustrated by the excellent monographs published by the Pennsylvania-German Society since its organization ten years ago, as well as by the writings of Seidensticker, Pennypacker and Sachse. *German and Swiss Settlements in Pennsylvania* stands midway between these two classes of writings; for, while it lacks the exhaustive treatment and fullness of detail of the one, it also avoids the superficial and inadequate treatment of the other. Its purpose is to give a complete yet concise view of the beginnings of the Pennsylvania-German race, to describe their manners and customs, and to gauge their influence on American life. Of its class it is probably the best that has yet appeared. The author traces his descent from pioneer German settlers in Lancaster County, that classic ground of the Pennsylvania-German, and writes, therefore, in full sympathy with the people whom he portrays. In his preface, true to his ancestry, he promises to eschew mere rhetoric and let the facts speak for themselves; and no one who reads the book will say that the promise has not been kept.

In his study of German and Swiss immigration the author confines himself to the period from 1683 to the beginning of the American Revolution, the generally accepted limits within which the